

College of Graduate Studies and Research, Cleveland State University; and J.D. from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

She is a former Trustee of the OWBA (1994–1997) and also a past co-chair of the OWBA's Law School Liaison Committee. The OWBA was initially formed in 1991 and is the only statewide bar association within Ohio solely dedicated toward advancing the interests of women attorneys while encouraging networking and the creation of a statewide mentor program for women attorneys.

Louise has also been active in other bar associations. She served on the Cleveland Bar Association's Board of Trustees and also, in 1999, was named One of Ten Outstanding Women in the Law by the Cleveland Bar. In 2001, she was awarded the Nonprofit Lawyers Academic Award by the American Bar Association.

At the same time, Ms. Dempsey has been active in the community in a variety of areas, including: appointment to the Board of the Cleveland Municipal School District; Board of Trustees of Laurel School; Board of Trustees of Park Works; Board of Trustees of Visiting Nurse Association; member of Northern Ohio Hate Crimes Working Group; and United Way Services.

On May 1, 2002, Justice Resnick will be presenting Ms. Dempsey with the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction at its Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

It gives me great pleasure to rise today,

Mr. Speaker, and Join the OWBA in congratulating Louise Dempsey and wishing her continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the Foundation Fighting Blindness for their incessant efforts toward finding a cure for macular degeneration and all retinal degenerative diseases. The Foundation provides funding for over 155 research studies at 55 prominent institutions, and since its inception in 1971, the Foundation has raised over \$160 million.

Macular degeneration causes progressive loss of central vision and is the leading cause of blindness in people older than 55 years. Approximately 6 million Americans, including one million Floridians, of every age and race suffer vision loss from retinal degenerative diseases. An additional 15 million Americans have pre-symptomatic signs of macular degeneration. By recognizing the symptoms and problems associated with macular degeneration, individuals can be tested early and receive treatment for this disabling disease.

Macular degeneration, which is believed to be caused by a combination of genetic or environmental factors, can be devastating for those diagnosed late. The loss of vision cannot be reversed, leaving its victims handicapped. These individuals usually suffer from depression at the thought of losing their independence. Because of the toll this takes on the lives of so many seniors, I call on Con-

gress to provide additional research funding to the National Eye Institute to help cure this disabling disease. Many local communities and some state governments have passed proclamations calling for May 1, 2002 to be designated "Cure Macular Degeneration Day." Therefore, I find this day fitting to bring attention to this important issue and to urge prompt action to find a cure.

HUNTINGDON AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Huntingdon Area Middle School Environmental Club for being among 30 students to receive the President's Environmental Youth Awards in 2001. On April 18th these students were honored by President Bush at the White House where they were recognized for their outstanding service to their communities and their achievements in environmental protection.

Kaleigh Felisberto, Amy Slicker, and Margo Wilson were recognized for their participation in the "Standing Stone Creek Water Quality Pre-Assessment" project. The stream assessment was conducted at four sites and examined biological organisms living on the stream bottom, chemical stream analysis, physical stream characteristics and stream habitat parameters. The students also developed a questionnaire in order to gain more input from the Huntingdon Water Treatment Plant concerning the environmental healthiness of the stream water. The tests showed good water quality and their research results were accepted as part of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection statewide stream assessments.

These students have an impressive history of improving the environment through their community projects. Since 1995 they have been members of Science Teams in Rural Environments for Aquatic Management Studies, or STREAMS. Through this organization they have studied watershed ecology and applied their knowledge to resolving local environmental problems. They have volunteered their time to educate and help their community be a more environmentally friendly place through their service.

I congratulate these students on receiving this important award and on successful completion of their stream assessment project. These students have demonstrated that they possess a dedicated spirit of service and environmental awareness. I would like to thank them for their hard work and wish them the best of luck on all their future endeavors.

HONORING IDAHO'S SENIOR CITIZENS FOR OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to honor a generation of Americans who have made this country what it is today.

This group learned the value of a dollar when food and jobs were rare during the great Depression and built the largest free economy the world has ever known.

This group of people saved the world from tyranny and oppression during World War II, illustrating powerful patriotism. Then sent their children to continue the fight for freedom in subsequent conflicts.

They survived the Bay of Pigs, the Beatles, disco-mania and Big Macs.

They've adapted to a changing world . . . starting school doing math problems with slates and chalk, to punching calculators, to utilizing computers, and then becoming one of the highest percentage of people to surf the Internet.

Most of all they've shown generations how to live with dignity, change a world and enhance a Nation—they are the United States' older Americans.

During the month of May, we'll honor their commitment and service to our country. In my home state of Idaho, thousands of senior citizens volunteer countless hours in classrooms, churches, small businesses, public parks, and service organizations. I recently attended a recognition luncheon for senior volunteers where just 755 volunteers gave more than 124,000 hours of service. They're grandparents, neighbors, and friends. Despite all they've given to us, they're still not done. Today, I honor that continuing sense of community that drives our seniors and respectfully thank older Americans for all they've contributed, and continue to contribute, to our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE KENT COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S ORGANI- ZATION OF DELAWARE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an exemplary group of women from my home state of Delaware, the Kent County Republican Women's Organization.

This year, the Kent County Republican Women's Organization will celebrate 50 years of service to the community on the Federal, State, and local level.

Revered and respected by their peers, these women formed the first organization of its kind in Kent County. From the beginning, they focused on promoting the tradition of a two party system, encouraging civic participation in the county and throughout the State and educating voters about the Republican message of low taxes and individual empowerment.

They have been instrumental in electing Republican candidates in Delaware through working on various campaigns and fundraisers, sponsoring events such as "Meet Our Candidates Night," congregating in Washington to advocate Republican issues and attending various Republican conventions to learn how they can better the party and improve their efforts.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and resolve that the Kent County Republican Women's Organization has maintained over

the last fifty years. Their continuous efforts to uphold the standards and integrity of the Republican Party is to be commended.

I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the Kent County Republican Women's Organization on their 50th anniversary and to thank them for their unmeasurable support and direction.

HONORING NATIONAL COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CARE MONTH—2002

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women who work hard everyday to provide quality health care for the elderly, disabled and mentally ill. May is National Community Residential Care Month, and I can't think of a better way to pay tribute to these men and women.

Community care providers offer medical, social, and nutritional assistance to those in need. They are committed professionals who work hard to create comfortable environments for people who are unable to care for themselves in their own homes.

More importantly, these professionals work hard to boost the self-confidence of those whose confidence is often broken as a result of their dependence on others. By caring and interacting with those in need, they have enriched the lives of those who they help.

Again, I want to congratulate all the men and women in this field of work. The United States Congress certainly appreciates the valuable service they provide. We thank you for the job you do and for the compassion that you bring to your field.

HONORING ABE SELMAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Abe Selman, Niles Village Manager from my home state of Illinois, for his outstanding years of service to the community. Mr. Selman will be retiring from his position on May 1st, 2002. Mr. Selman has been a Niles resident since 1962 and has dedicated himself to the public sector, bettering the Niles community. He served as a village trustee for 17 years and resigned in 1989 to become the Village Manager.

Mr. Selman worked nonstop to make Niles a community for all to enjoy and achieved this goal through his knowledge, experience, and most important of all, his passion for service. As Village Manager, he was a visionary. Mr. Selman was in charge of managing development of a Village-wide computer network project, starting from setting up a single computer to over 200 in the village. He was also responsible for the planning, financing, and construction of several municipal buildings that greatly improved the quality of life of many residents. His business savvy was felt through his efficient use of public funds and by reducing operating costs through improved business practices.

Mr. Selman will be missed. His contributions to the community have been felt by all. Thank you Abe, for all you have done for the community.

A BILL TO ACCELERATE THE BASIC STANDARD DEDUCTION MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF AND MODIFY THE WORK OPPOR- TUNITY TAX CREDIT AND THE WELFARE-TO-WORK TAX CREDIT

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my colleague from Illinois, Mr. WELLER, in introducing our bill, the "Encouraging Work and Supporting Marriage Act of 2002" to accelerate the marriage penalty relief for low- and middle-income families and to modify and simplify the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and the Welfare-To-Work Tax Credit (WtW).

Last year's tax law eliminates the marriage penalty in the standard deduction by gradually increasing the standard deduction for married couples beginning in 2005. The proposal would accelerate this relief by increasing the standard deduction beginning in 2003. The proposal would benefit low- and middle-income families and would simplify tax filing by reducing the number of taxpayers who itemize.

After a number of improvements over the past few years, the WOTC and WtW programs are being well received in providing employment, with training, for our disadvantaged. We believe the WOTC and WtW programs have been very important in helping individuals become employed and make the transition from welfare to work. Such training can be costly, and the credits provide an incentive to employers to hire the disadvantaged and provide the needed training, while offsetting costs associated with the latter effort. However, the job is not over. These individuals are usually the first ones to suffer when we see economic conditions such as we have experienced the past year.

The current WOTC provides employers with a graduated tax credit of 25 percent of the first \$6,000 in wages for eligible individuals working between 120 hours and 399 hours and a 40 percent tax credit on the first \$6,000 in wages for those working over 400 hours. The WtW tax credit is targeted toward long-term welfare recipients—providing a 35 percent tax credit on the first \$10,000 in wages during the first year of employment and a 50 percent credit on the first \$10,000 for those who stay on the job a second year.

The proposal would make the following changes: (1) combine the two credits and establish WtW as a separate targeted group, (2) repeal the requirement that a qualified ex-felon be a member of an economically disadvantaged family for purposes of eligibility for the tax credit (a time-consuming requirement that discourages hiring from this group), (3) increase the age limit for qualified food stamp recipients by five years (from 18–24 to 18–29), and (4) standardize the definition of wages as "cash wages" paid by employer to a member of the targeted group.

The present-law WOTC rules for calculating the credit would be retained for the eight categories currently eligible for the work opportunity tax credit. In the case of long-term family assistance recipients, i.e. the ninth targeted group, the credit would equal 40 percent (25 percent for employment of less than 400 hours) of qualified first-year wages. Therefore the maximum credit would be \$4,000 (40 percent of \$10,000) with respect to long-term family assistance recipients. In the second year, the maximum credit would be 40 percent of the first \$10,000 of qualified second-year wages for the long-term family assistance recipients. The net effect of the change would increase the WtW credit by frontloading the benefits, thus increasing an employer's incentive to hire long-term Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients. All of the provisions would be effective for wages paid or incurred for qualified individuals who begin work for an employer after December 31, 2002.

We believe these changes will bring tax relief to low- and middle-income families by accelerating the elimination of the marriage penalty, as well as strengthening the WOTC program, which has become a major factor in helping individuals become employed and make the transition from welfare to work. We urge our colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES E. VENY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James E. Veny for his exemplary service to the community. Jim Veny was born and raised in White Plains, New York, and attended White Plains High School.

In the summer of 1963, Jim joined the U.S. Navy and was selected to be a part of the Navy's Nuclear Power Submarine Program. During his tour, Jim attended various naval schools, traveled around the world, and was a featured soloist of the U.S. Navy's Naval Choir at Great Lakes, Illinois. Jim served one year in the Vietnam War, concluding a seven-year career in the Navy.

After the Navy, Jim earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction from Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, New Hampshire. In 1975, he completed his formal academic studies by receiving a Masters in Business Administration degree from the Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College.

Fortunately for those of us in the Bay Area, Jim moved to San Jose in July of 1980, working for FMC (Food Machinery Corporation, which is now United Defense). In 1983, he was appointed Community Relations Manager at United Defense, focusing the department on four areas of need in the community—the arts, diversity, social service, and education. Jim quickly learned that to do community work and to make an impact he had to get personally involved.

Jim has served on the boards of the following organizations: the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County, the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley, and the African American Community Service Agency. Over the years, Jim's greatest commitment has been to the education of young people, and he has been recognized by organizations in San Jose